

INTIMATIONS

NOW READY

CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

FOR CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS, &c., &c., FOR 1896.

With which is incorporated THE CHINA DIRECTORY.

This is the THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE, and will be found, as usual, to show an advance on preceding years both in fulness and accuracy of information.

The DIRECTORY covers the whole of the ports and cities of the Far East, from Peking to Vladivostok, in which European reside.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL those are selected by our London House, brought direct at first hand, imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply the best goods at moderate prices.

PRICE LISTS, with Full Details, to be had on Application.

PORT after removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner Wines of very superior Vintages. All true Xeres Wines.

CLARET—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currants, as is generally the case with cheap wines.

BRANDY—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "E" is universally popular, and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1896.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ONLY communications relating to the columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the contributor, and should be sent to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only Single Copies for Cash.

Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MARCH 25th, 1896.

WHATEVER may be said of the morality of Russian policy in the Far East no one can question its general consistency. For the moment its course may be directed by a sudden emergency such as the recent intervention in behalf of China against Japan, when the latter had within her grasp the territory known as the Regent's Girdle in the Liaotung Peninsula, but the Chinese have never, we imagine, for a moment deluded themselves into believing that the Government of the Czar had relinquished on that account the aims and ambitions of the last two hundred years. Even the fact that appearances then seemed emphatically to dispose of the belief firmly held, up to that date, that China's emergency was Russia's opportunity, could not blind Peking officials to the truth that their great neighbour only intervened for the furtherance of ends otherwise unattainable. Nor do Muscovite statesmen imagine for an instant that because Russia and her allies prevailed, the victorious Japanese and unprepared Manchuria in the southern corner of Manchuria, the Chinese Government believe that the act was prompted by consideration for China or by hostility to the Japanese. The Chinese, no doubt, were fully thankful that Russian self-interest compelled that Power to intervene; and that French and German jealousy prompted each of those Powers to precipitately rush themselves in support of the Great Bear, but they did not mistake the motives that influenced them to their timely intervention. They accepted the relief it brought, but without thanks and without gratitude. They recognised at a glance that Japan, by her success, had become a menace and an obstacle to Russian aims, and for that reason, and out of sympathy with China, was Japan deprived of her spoils, and the integrity of the Chinese empire on the mainland once more preserved.

Possibly, if the truth were to be told, the Peking Government only regard Russia with augmented suspicion since this episode. It is an entirely contrary to Russian policy and practice to do anything from mere good will or without ulterior designs that the main designs are probably still more closely on their guard against such unexpected developments in which the Russians will claim some fresh reward for their enforced assistance. Ever since, in 1890, the Russian Government enlarged their boundaries on

the Amur by the addition of what was practically a province at the expense of China, at a time when she was unable to effectively resist, the Chinese Government have watched with deepest distrust every movement along the far-reaching northern frontier, and if not armed to resist, have at least been ready to attempt to thwart any further advance by their great neighbour. The check administered to Russia by the Treaty of 1881, negotiated by the Marquis Tsoo after that concluded by Curzon How had been repudiated at Peking, is not likely to be forgotten by either party. Russia yielded on that occasion because she did not appreciate China's weakness, and China would have gained by force of arms, the retrocession of the Kuldja. It may be doubted whether this agreement will prove of the permanent character it then seemed likely to prove. The dogged determination of China to recover a territory the value of which to the outsider seemed so disproportionate to the efforts made to repossess it, rather served to bluff all the Western Powers and to impress them with a false estimate of the strength and latent energy of China. To some extent perhaps the Peking Government gained, inasmuch as this diplomatic triumph over Russia greatly assisted them in their dealings with the other Treaty Powers, enabling them to take a firm stand against all demands for redress for injuries suffered or breaches of the Treaties. This position of obstinate if passive resistance to Western pressure was still further strengthened by the miserable failure of the French attempt to exact satisfaction in 1884-5 for the invasion of Tonkin by Chinese troops.

But when in 1894 Japan stripped the lion's skin from the obstinate but covering form of the Manchurian ass, the illusion so bravely kept up was once and for ever dispelled. Where before respect was felt for vaguely imagined strength, actual experience has begotten contempt for proved pusillanimity, corruption, and incompetence. The Peking Government may continue as mulish and as intractable as of old, but it is at least known that this obstinacy has nothing at the back of it, no reserve of fighting strength, little power of resistance in force. When the time comes for the next Russian advance it will not be checked by any over estimation of the resources of the Chinese Government. The time for that advance is perhaps hardly ripe; the great Trans-Siberian Railway has first to be completed, but in the meantime we may expect to see some signs of movement in Turkish. Indeed it is already reported that the Mahomedans in Kashgaria are preparing for a new struggle, and Russian troops are being massed on the frontier. If this region again becomes the theatre of a sanguinary war and the Russians feel compelled to step in once more to occupy and administer the country, we may be sure they will not again surrender it to China. The Kashgarians would vastly prefer the rule of the Czar to that of the Son of Heaven, and the Russians would have no difficulty in holding the territory. A conflict with China would moreover afford Russia a fine pretext for the acquisition of the very territory from which, by the aid of France and Germany, she had been excluded in the Japanese. It is quite possible that the Peking Government may be counting on Great Britain as an impediment to such an advance, but they will be wise not to do so. What can Great Britain hope for from China? The latter country has shown her utter helplessness against attack, she has abundantly proved her bad faith and selfish indifference to all Treaty obligations, and it would, therefore, hardly be worth while to act as her champion. Russia, on the other hand, is manifestly only falling her destiny, in endeavouring to push southwards to an unbroken sea when her new railway will find a terminus at a port open all through the year.

H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG will pass through Hongkong next week on his way to Europe. His stay in Hongkong will be short, but he will probably have a clear day in which he will be at liberty to see such sights as the colony has to offer or to accept any entertainment to which he might be invited. We notice a suggestion in the *Hingpang Telegraph* that the community of this colony, the first foreign port he will touch at, should "give him a hearty welcome and prove to him that he is 'known and respected out of China as well as within its limits, and that foreigners 'have nothing for him but the best wishes and the kindest feelings.' His Excellency represents his sovereign, he is going to Europe on an important mission, and while passing through this colony every possible courtesy should be observed towards him from an official point of view. To attempt anything in the way of a public demonstration in his honour, however, would be a hollow mockery. Personally His Excellency is unknown to the community and his political career has not been such as to excite universal admiration; but the present would be an inappropriate time to go into details on that subject. His Excellency is a man of strong character and extraordinary ability and like all men of marked individuality he cannot fail to inspire interest. The community of Hongkong, however, will, it is to be hoped, not feign to entertain sentiments towards him that do not generally exist.

Half-a-dozen lodging house keepers were yesterday fined amounts varying from \$10 to \$20 for oversteering their premises.

It is rumoured at Tokyo that the Korean Government has privately given permission to extend the Siberian railway to Fusan.

The C.P. steamer *Express* of Japan arrived at Nagsaki on 8 a.m. yesterday and left again at 6 p.m. for Vancouver via Kobe and Yokohama.

The China Mutual steamer *Hylon*, from Glasgow and Liverpool, passed the Canal yesterday, and may be considered due at Singapore on or about the 10th prox.

Mr. McCollum, Secretary to the Sanitary Board, received an intimation yesterday that eight more cases belonging to the Dairy Company were to be disposed of.

Since the commencement of the year, 590 cases of cholera have been reported, but on Monday only two cases were reported, and yesterday the number of cases was zero.

The French gambler *Levi* arrived here yesterday from Shanghai.

The P. & O. steamer *Kohila*, from Bombay, left Singapore yesterday, at 2 p.m. for this port.

H.M.S. *Narcissus* left here yesterday for a cruise, and H.M. gunboat *Plow* arrived from Amoy.

The programme of the Philharmonic Society's concert to be given evening will be found in our advertising columns.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alliance Memorial and Netherland Hospital begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospital:

Collected by Li Shi Ying, \$170.

We hear that the Committee of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association have telegraphed to the New Minister to Peking, to dine with the Association while passing through Hongkong.

Captain Franz Meyer, of the steamer *Cordoba*, was found lying unconscious at the foot of the Deshima Hotel steps, Nagasaki, on the 11th March. He was suffering from a cerebral hemorrhage. The unfortunate man, who was a German, died. It is believed he had been drinking heavily in the dark and cold, and fell down the steps in the dark, and no foul play is suspected.

According to Bangkok papers negotiations have been going on through Mr. Jerome Dyer for the sale of the two Australian gunboats *Victoria* and *Albatross* to the Siam Government.

It is said the price asked was \$150,000, but was subsequently reduced to \$100,000 without the Siam Government having been asked to appear to have resulted in a contract.

Four robbers, one of whom was armed with a dagger, entered a house at Shek-tai-tai on Monday night and forced the occupants to maintain silence. The thieves then plundered the house and took away with them \$26 in money and \$10 worth of clothing. The householder is a Chinese, and before long the police will be able to check the dangerous evil.

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THE PUNSON MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punson Mining Co., Limited, advises that he has received the following report on work done during the month of February from the Manager at the Punson Mine:

"Mining work has been done in the Punson Mine during the month of February, and the following is a summary of the work done during the month:

"The work done during the month of February was as follows:

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